

Please share the following information with teaching staff in your centre who deliver the PDA in Scottish Football Association: Refereeing.

Information for teachers and lecturers delivering the PDA in Scottish Football Association: Refereeing (GA51 47)

Thank you to everyone who joined us at this year's SQA and Scottish FA annual event on Wednesday 3 September at Hampden Park. We felt it was important to reiterate some of the key messages shared at the event, particularly for anyone who was unable to attend, and to provide answers to some of the questions we received afterwards.

We've provided information below on the support available from the Scottish FA and SQA.

New platforms – SFA

The SFA demonstrated two new platforms which are both to be used this academic session:

HALO – This platform is managed by the SFA and will host all teaching and learning materials for use in the delivery of the course. All centres who have approval to offer the qualification are already registered for access.

COMET – This platform is to be used by delivering teachers and lecturers to manage the progress of their learners. All delivering teachers and lecturers have been granted access to the platform already and are required to register their own learners to ensure that they're able to access the resource.

If you have any queries about these platforms, please email referee.sqa@scottishfa.co.uk or call 07944 613351.

New platforms – SQA

SQA demonstrated two new platforms, one of which will be used this academic session:

SQA SOLAR is to be used for the assessment of the Laws of the Game unit (FF2Y 34) Outcome 1. The format is the same as previous years (multiple choice) and questions will reflect any law changes for this season. The platform will include a 'mock test' which candidates will have access to in order to familiarise themselves with the platform. The live assessment will be available on the platform from 20 October 2025. Most centres are already using SOLAR for different subject areas. Your centre SOLAR co-ordinator will have recently received an email about the Laws of the Game assessment and they can grant you access to SOLAR if required. If you have any queries about this platform, please email das.helpdesk@sqa.org.uk.

A prototype of an **SQA interactive digital learning platform** that learners, teachers and lecturers would be able to use as part of teaching and learning of the course was also demonstrated. This platform is currently under development and, following the demonstration, delegates were asked to inform SQA if they thought it would be useful in their delivery of the course. The overwhelming majority of delegates agreed that this would be beneficial to learners and those delivering the course. SQA will continue to review the access and feedback on this prototype, with the intention of increasing the learning materials for session 2026-27 if it's well received.

As part of the rolling out of this initiative, some centres expressed a willingness to be visited by SQA so that candidates, teachers and lecturers could provide feedback on the platform and its use. If your centre would like to be involved, please contact robert.flavell@sqa.org.uk.

Changes in the laws of the game

These were explained by Colin Steven (SFA referee) and Steven MacDonald (SFA referee) who covered Laws 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 14. The SFA have issued these updates through HALO.

If you have any queries about these changes, please email referee.sqa@scottishfa.co.uk.

Quality assurance

Information on quality assurance of the course was provided by SQA to support centres in the processes they must complete before, during, and after delivery of the course. You can find the presentation on the [Scottish Football Association: Refereeing web page](#) (under the 'SQA and Scottish FA annual events' tab).

Referee pathways

SFA representative Jim Bruce (Aberdeen and District Referees Association) highlighted the important connections between local associations and delivering centres to boost referee recruitment.

Daniel Graves (SFA Referee), Olivia Crawford (SFA referee), and Tommy Proctor (SFA referee) – who had all completed the refereeing course at school – shared information about how refereeing has had a positive effect on many aspects of their lives.

Contact SQA

Please contact SQA's qualifications team if you have any questions about verification or the course and unit documents.

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Appendix: Your questions answered

Questions on Practical Refereeing Unit (FF2X 34) from the event

1. Which fitness test should be used for LO3?

Centres should, as part of good teaching and learning, carry out both a speed and aerobic endurance test. However, centres must retain evidence of candidates achieving the limits set out in the evidence requirements for the aerobic endurance test described.

2. Must you achieve the standard required in the evidence requirements to pass this outcome?

Yes.

3. What assessment is required for Practical Refereeing (FF2X 34) Outcome 1?

Candidates are required to analyse the match incidents supplied by SFA, which are stored on the SQA secure website.